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POWELL, JOHN WALKER. *The Confessions of a Browning Lover*. New York: The Abingdon Press, 1918. Pp. 248. \$1.00.

This book is a vigorous effort to present Browning in a light that will increase the poet's popularity. The writer claims the privilege of handling his subject as he sees fit. He disdains to be called either an annotator or a commentator. In fact, the treatment is distinctly individualistic, personal, and controversial in its character. It is the work of a theologian who sees in Browning something more than philosophy and theology. Although the writer takes the position that the beauty of Browning's poetry is substance rather than form, he reveals many artistic touches which are frequently overlooked by the ordinary reader. That the writer is a profound student of Browning and an ardent admirer is not to be doubted. His method is to cite numerous quotations found throughout the poet's works as they bear upon the main themes with which the chapters deal, such as "Of the Poet as Artist," "Of Artists and Philosophers," "Of Ideals and Forms," "Of Life and Love," etc.

The author's knowledge of literature is general and his ready application of it for critical purposes is of parallel interest to his exposition of Browning. Although his method of presentation is novel, the phases of the poet's work which he most emphasizes are in general the same as those which command the deep study and the ardent admiration of Browning lovers everywhere. The entire book is an inspiration on a high level and will be gladly welcomed by the casual reader as well as the literary critic.

DOWNING, ELLIOT ROWLAND. *The Third and Fourth Generation*.¹ Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1918. Pp. xii+164. \$1.00.

"An attempt to consider frankly and seriously the scientific facts regarding the problem called eugenics" has added this volume to the "Constructive Studies" published at the University of Chicago. It is a presentation of important discoveries concerning the laws and physical basis of heredity written in simple language for young people's classes. Through study of the facts and interpretations presented young people should be influenced in their individual conduct toward the laws of nature and as a result help to direct opinion on important social problems.

Most of the subject-matter is not too difficult for pupils of high-school age, and the book should furnish valuable supplementary reading for students of biology and botany in the high school. It will be of particular value to reading circles and Sunday-school classes, since most of the material can be understood by those who have not had the opportunity of the high-school instruction in similar subject-matter. The questions at the end of the chapters furnish excellent problems for discussion.

Following a short introduction on the purpose of the book, facts concerning the development of racing horses and facts concerning human heredity introduce the discussion of the laws of heredity. The Darwin-Wedgewood-Galton family, Jonathan Edwards' descendants, and Max-Jukes's descendants furnish

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